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SUBJECT: SUPPORTING LEBANON: PLANNED DUTCH CONTRIBUTION FOR 2007

REF: STATE 12496

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¶1. (SBU) Summary. The Dutch are finalizing a plan to provide 3.6 million euros (approximately \$4.9 million) in 2007 to support of Lebanese reconstruction and security sector reform efforts. Dutch support in 2006 totaled 11.1 million euros (approximately \$15.1 million). End Summary.

¶2. (SBU) Following the January 25 Lebanon Donor's Conference held in Paris (reftel), Econoff followed up with Peter van der Bloemen, Desk Officer for Syria and Lebanon, Middle East and North Africa Division, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Van der Bloemen said GONL Lebanon donation plans for 2007 are in "the final stages" and will focus on reconstruction and security sector reform (SSR). If approved in full, van der Bloemen added, the 2007 budget should total 3.6 million euros (approximately \$4.9 million).

¶3. (SBU) For reconstruction, van der Bloemen said the GONL plans to contribute 1.4 million euros (approximately \$1.9 million) for three efforts: a UNHABITAT proposal to build capacity in southern Lebanon communities, small civil society projects to foster dialogue between different ethnic and religious groups in Lebanese society, and a seminar in Beirut for Lebanese media. The funds would be distributed through the Dutch mission in Beirut.

¶4. (SBU) On SSR, the Dutch Ministry of Defense is in final consultations with Lebanese authorities, van der Bloemen said. The GONL plans to contribute 2.2 million euros (approximately \$3.0 million) to "enhance" Lebanese army logistical capabilities by providing trucks and training, he added.

¶5. (SBU) Van der Bloemen said the first "concrete" project for 2007 will start in May. The Dutch will provide a month-long training course on the latest forensic techniques to 20 Lebanese officials involved in crime-site research.

¶6. (SBU) In 2006, the Dutch provided 11.1 million euros (approximately \$15.1 million) for Lebanon as follows:

- International Committee of the Red Cross: 2.5 million euros (approximately \$3.4 million)
- UN World Food Programme: 1.5 million euros (approximately \$2.0 million)
- UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs: 300,000 euros (approximately \$407,000)
- Netherlands Red Cross via Palestinian and Lebanese Red Cross: 250,000 euros (approximately \$339,000)

-- Netherlands Red Cross via Syrian Red Cross: 250,000 euros  
(approximately \$339,000)  
-- UN Children's Fund: 2,150,000 euros pledged at Stockholm  
Conference (approximately \$2.9 million)  
-- UN Mine Action Coordination Centre: 4,150,000 euros  
pledged at Stockholm Conference (approximately \$5.6 million)  
ARNALL